



The President's Daily Brief

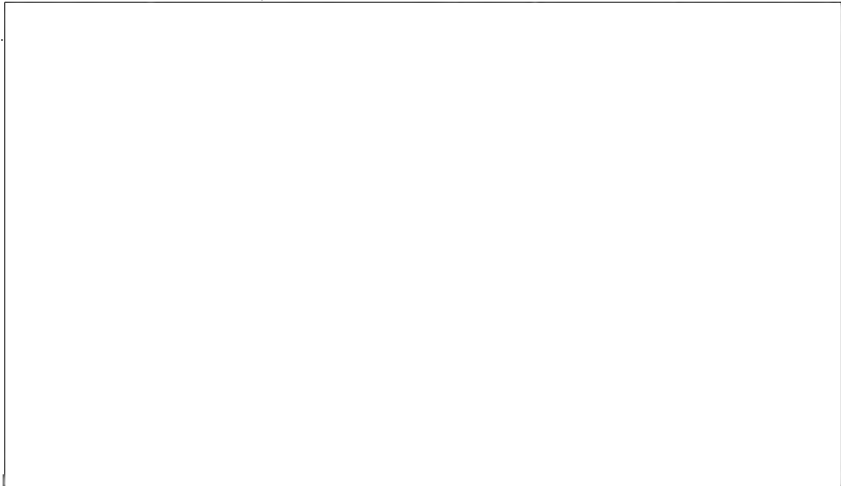
~~Top Secret~~ 8 June 1968



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**THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 JUNE 1968**

1. Soviet Union



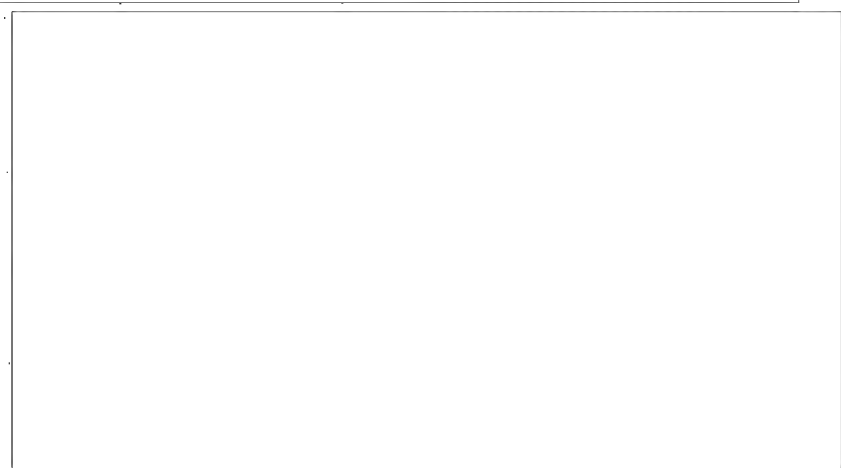
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2. Czechoslovakia

The Czechs have appointed a special military spokesman to handle publicity for the upcoming Warsaw Pact exercise in Czechoslovakia. We see this highly unusual move as part of a plan to allay fears that the Soviets will use the exercise to cover military intervention.

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3. Soviet Union - Egypt

Soviet press and television have seized upon the assassination of Senator Kennedy to launch a vicious tirade at US domestic and foreign policies and the entire American system. Conspicuously missing is any message of sympathy to the Kennedy family or the people of the US.

This propaganda is suggesting both official US negligence and even connivance in the shooting. Pravda, for instance, says that a leader of the bourgeois who departs even slightly from the imperialist line is subject to elimination. So far, the Soviet media have been completely silent about the national origin of the accused killer.

Some Arab newspapers are dishing up similar but more direct charges of official US complicity in the murder. One Cairo paper talks about "certain circles, including the CIA," which were involved. A Beirut paper says, "US intelligence was probably behind the assassination."

4. Soviet Union

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5. France

We doubt that De Gaulle's radio-TV broadcast yesterday convinced many uncommitted voters to support the regime in the parliamentary elections later this month. The General's rather vague idea of a partnership for management and labor will probably be rejected as paternalistic and dangerous for the unions. His continuing attacks on the Communists are also not very effective electoral ammunition.

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6. South Vietnam

Saigon Radio announced today that National Police director Loan has been replaced by Ranger commander Colonel Tran Van Hai. There are also rumors that Saigon's mayor Cua has been replaced.

There have been several reports that Thieu was planning to remove both men, who are recovering from wounds received during the recent fighting in Saigon.

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Although Thieu's action might provoke Ky into some impetuous move, including his resignation as vice president, Thieu evidently anticipates that there will be no major trouble.

7. Japan

Sato's cabinet secretary, reacting to popular concern over the jet crash in Fukuoka last weekend, announced on Wednesday that the government will request cessation of US night training flights.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Sato voiced his displeasure, saying there is a need to restudy the problem of US air bases near congested areas. He also charged the US with failure to keep its word on minimizing night training flights.

Leftist students have mounted demonstrations every day this week against US diplomatic posts and military facilities throughout Japan. Thus far, the police have been able to keep these demonstrations under control.

8. Bolivia

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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8 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

8 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Cyrus Eaton to See Le Duc Tho: The aging Cleveland industrialist and espouser of left-wing causes has plans to meet the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris this weekend. Eaton has been in Moscow where he passed on news of his Paris trip to Ambassador Thompson. According to Eaton, Kosygin is making arrangements for the meeting with the Vietnamese.

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Kosygin, Eaton said, questioned him on US intentions about peace. The Soviet premier said the Russians had heard many rumors that President Johnson did not want a settlement before elections. Eaton claims he assured Kosygin that the US is sincerely seeking an agreement.

Eaton did not say just what it was he intended to say to the North Vietnamese in Paris.

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Bloc Arms: East European arms delivered to North Vietnam are showing up in South Vietnam. Rumanian and Bulgarian antitank bazookas, Bulgarian recoilless rifles, and Polish assault rifles are being captured by US forces. The bazookas and assault rifles captured were manufactured as recently as 1967.

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Rail Lines North Improved: Recent photography shows the North Vietnamese have been busy improving the rail lines to China. The new construction consists of additional sidings and by-passes around tunnels and rail yards--all designed to make the lines less vulnerable to bombing and to speed the flow of traffic.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Senator Kennedy: Hanoi news media are giving extensive coverage to the death of Senator Kennedy. News of the assassination was carried by both domestic and international broadcasts on 6 June and the following day; lengthy commentaries appeared in Nhan Dan, the party daily. The initial broadcasts pointed out that the Senator was one of the strongest critics of US policy on Vietnam and called him a "formidable opponent of the Johnson-Humphrey party."

According to one broadcast in English, the Nhan Dan commentary portrayed the Senator's death as the latest example of the use of violence in the American election process and implied that those who opposed him in the elections were responsible for his death.

Another broadcast in French, also sourced to Nhan Dan, included extensive quotes from the Senator's speeches on Vietnam.

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